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7AM-CIA-NEWS SERVICES, 240

DES MOINES, IOWA (AP) - A DES MOINES COMPUTER FIRM PRESIDENT MET TWICE WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TO DISCUSS SELLING A COMPUTER PROGRAM TO THE AGENCY; POSSIBLY TO ANALYZE NEWS STORIES OR THE REPORTERS WHO PRODUCED THEM; THE DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER REPORTED.

THE REGISTER QUOTED A "WELL-PLACED SOURCE" AS SAYING THE CIA WANTED TO USE GMI'S "QUESTER" COMPUTER PROGRAM TO ANALYZE STORIES PRODUCED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL. THE TWO SERVICES PROVIDE NEWS TO DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

DR. CHARLES CLEVELAND, A DRAKE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND PRESIDENT OF GMI, LTD., SAID HE WASN'T SURE HIS COMPUTER PROGRAM COULD ANALYZE NEWS COPY BECAUSE "WE'VE NEVER TRIED IT," AND ADDED THAT "WE CERTAINLY DON'T INTEND TO TRY IT." CLEVELAND DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER REPORT.

THE CIA WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY COMMENT ON THE STORY.

THE REGISTER SAID THE MEETINGS BETWEEN CLEVELAND AND THE CIA OCCURRED LAST SUMMER BUT THAT HE FINALLY DECIDED NOT TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE AGENCY.

THE NEWSPAPER DESCRIBED THE "QUESTER" PROGRAM AS A SOPHISTICATED PLAN FOR DRAWING PERSONALITY PROFILES.

GRI VICE PRESIDENT ELLEN PIRRO SAID THE UNIQUE FACT ABOUT "QUESTER" IS THAT IT ANALYZES WORDS "AS THEY FALL INTO CONTEXT," THE REPORT SAID. IT QUOTED HER AS SAYING THE PROGRAM IMPLIES THAT "WHAT A MAN SAYS IS WHAT HE IS."

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